# Mountainland Region Edition

**July 2002** 

#### in this issue

Raylene Ireland, New Executive
Director of DWS2
<b>Economic Information</b> 2
Online Unemployment
Contributions a Hit3
Kudos
Employer Workshops
Business Consultants4

#### **State of Utah** *Michael O. Leavitt, Governor*

**Department of Workforce Services** 

#### **Mountainland Region**

Melissa Finch, Director 150 E. Center St. #3200 Provo, UT 84606 • (801) 374-7740



### New Spanish Fork DWS office



The new Department of Workforce Services office in Spanish Fork

Like the Phoenix that rises from the ashes, a new Department of Workforce Services (DWS) office has risen in Spanish Fork replacing the office that burned in Payson on February 9th of this year.

The new office, built by KL & KL Investments Inc., is 12,700 sq. feet and houses 27 employees. The Payson office was a remodeled bowling alley and barely had room for 12 employees. The new building was already under construction when fire destroyed the Payson office, but credit needs to be given to the builders. They put extra crews on the construction site to get the building finished almost a month early. It was interesting to drive by the site and see all the work that was getting done: it looked like ants on an anthill with the entire construction crew working rapidly to finish the project. Thanks to KL & KL Investments for getting the work done early!

The new office in Spanish Fork will allow DWS to better serve people

in the southern part of Utah County. On-going eligibility functions such as managing food stamps, cash assistance, medicaid, and child care are now housed in the new building. This new change should make it easier for all customers to access their eligibility worker. A new job connection area has 15 computers for use in job searches, resume writing, and honing computer and typing skills. There are four interview rooms available for employers and staff, and there are two testing rooms which can be used to conduct type, data entry, and computer software tests. The office building has three conference rooms and a computer training room available. The building is designed so that one section can be secured after business hours, while the other section can be open to conduct trainings, job fairs, or interviews. This will allow employers to work at the new office after hours while keeping DWS records confidential and equipment secured.

(continued on page 4)



# Meet Raylene Ireland, New Director of Department of Workforce Services

On Friday, April 12, 2002 Utah Governor Mike Leavitt announced that Raylene G. Ireland would be the new Executive Director of the Department of Workforce Services. At the same time he announced two other changes in his Cabinet. David Harmer, now heads the Department of Community and Economic Development and S. Camille Anthony took the helm at the Department of Administrative Services replacing Ireland.

"I have chosen to use these changes as an opportunity to reassign experienced and proven managers," said Leavitt. "I'm confident each will approach the challenges of their respective agencies with fresh insights."

Raylene Ireland served as the Executive Director of the Department of Administrative Services since 1993, overseeing eight divisions critical to the internal functions of state government such as information technology services, finance and facility management and construction. During her tenure, the state implemented the wide area network, improving productivity and making technology available to employees statewide.

"I'm very excited to be at Workforce Services. It's a new challenge for me and I plan to rely upon the team that Bob Gross has put in place," said Ireland. "I am also looking forward to touring the state and introducing myself to the staff in our employment centers and regional offices."

Ireland chairs the State Capitol Preservation Subcommittee on Planning and Preservation and has played an active role in the construction project for the Capitol campus. She currently serves on many committees and boards, including the Workers Compensation Fund Board, the Capitol Preservation Board, the National Association of State Chief Administrators, and the State Rate Committee.

Prior to her service in state government, Ireland worked in local government as the assistant to the mayor of Provo City. She has served on the Provo-Orem Chamber of Commerce and was the first woman to be elected chairperson of the Utah County Republican Party.

Ireland became a charter member of the Women In Management Council, and would later receive their "Outstanding Woman" recognition award. She was appointed to the Judicial Nominating Committee, and was the chair of the Freedom Festival Awards Gala for five years. She was also a PTA reading tutor at her children's elementary school.

From 1978 to 1985, Ireland was vice-president of Ireland and Associates, a family-run manufacturing firm. An alumna of Brigham Young University, she is married to Ward J. Ireland and currently resides in Lindon, Utah. She and her husband are the parents of seven children.

The Utah State Senate formally confirmed Raylene Ireland's appointment on April 24.

# Economic Information FREE

Discover the gold mine of economic information waiting for you on our Web site:

#### http://wi.dws.state.ut.us/employer\*

- · statewide data for Utah
- county-level economic information
- local community-level information
- occupational wage data
- entry level, average, median and middle range
- employment cost index
- consumer price index
- income
- personal and per capita; median household
- list of Utah firms by industry and area: FirmFind
- complete labor market information publications
- the latest economic news
- links to lots of other sites
- links to other states
- LMI; U.S. Department of Labor; State Tax Commission; Census Bureau; Governor's Office of Demographic and Economic Analysis; U of U Bureau of Economic and Business Research

Download, print or explore a wealth of information to help you make smart business decisions!

\* In mid-2002, this URL will change to: http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/employer



#### Save the date September 24, 2002

#### **SHRM Crossroads Conference**

"The Great Behind The Great" September 24, 2002 Golf Tournament September 27

For Registration Information Call 801-539-7495 For Display Booth Information Call 801-455-6068

### Online Unemployment Contributions Services a Hit With Employers

"If you build it they will come" not only applies to the 1989 hit movie *Field of Dreams*, it also applies to Utah's Department of Workforce Services Unemployment Contributions' Web site.

This is confirmed by the fact that one third of all new registrations are now done through the internet. Within minutes, a new employer can obtain an account number and rate. If they need to notify the department of a change of ownership, name, address, or telephone number, they can do so online and in real-time.

An even bigger hit with employers and tax preparers is the ability to satisfy their entire quarterly reporting obligations online. Quarterly wage lists, tax reports, and payments can be submitted quickly in a four-step process that gives the employer the option of authorizing an electronic

funds transfer (EFT) or submitting their payment with a coupon. And immediately after submitting their report, the employer can view their transaction, as well as all prior filings, on a reporting history screen.

The popularity of internet reporting is evidenced by the results and comments received after it became available April 1, 2002. More than 2,500 employers, or 4.9 percent, filed their First Quarter 2002 report online. Twenty one percent of those are authorizing EFT payments.

"I had so much fun filing all my clients' returns. I am so impressed with the Department of Workforce Services for creating this opportunity for us to file on line. The step by step for filing is so simple that you don't realize how fast and easy it is."

- Accountant and Payroll Specialist in Provo, Utah

#### KUDOS

"Thank you, thank you,
THANK YOU! Someone finally
gets it! I loved filing my
unemployment insurance
form on your web site. The
site worked (no errors), was
efficient, was intuitive, and
was relatively pain free (as
pain free as filing payroll tax
reports can be anyway)!"

John W. Daniels

"I realize that you probably don't hear a thank you very often. So I am saying thank you. Thank you for helping put food in my children's mouths, and thank you for keeping them healthy with medical insurance. I am a single mother that is trying to become independent by working 40 hours per week and without your help I would not be able to succeed."

**Heidi Tulin** 

"I always appreciate being able to work with your staff members, but yesterday Alana Stewart went above and beyond her expected responsibilities to help an individual with great needs. Thank you for your willingness to work so well with our agency and for the flexibility of your employees to 'do something different' to help those in need."

Kathryn Monson, Program Director, CAPSA



- \* Recruiting employees?
- \* Trying to retain good employees?
- \* Trying to decide on pay increases for next year?
- \* Want to know what the going rate is for a certain occupation?

This information is FREE and is just a mouse click away on the DWS Economic Information web site: http://jobs.utah.gov/wi Click on "Occupational Wage Information" and sample our wage "buffet." Be sure to bookmark the site for quick, easy access any time.

Utah Department of Workforce Services Executive Director's Office P.O. Box 143100 Salt Lake City, UT 84114-3100

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#### Spanish Fork Office (Continued from page 1)

An open house and ribbon cutting ceremony was held on May 23, with members of the local community Chambers of Commerce, DWS regional and state representatives, and other dignitaries present. The staff at the Spanish Fork office invite the public to visit and utilize the new facilities available to customers in this part of Utah county.

## NEW EMPLOYER WORKSHOPS ADDED TO AN ALREADY FANTASTIC 2002 SCHEDULE!

- "Sexual Harassment in the Workplace" rescheduled September 11, 2002
- "Company Downsizing and Rapid Response: Services offered through Department of Workforce Services"
   July 11, 2002
- "Workplace Drug Testing"

August 7, 2002

Call or e-mail to register: (801) 342-2639, joycejohnson@utah.gov Check out our Web site for more information about the 2002 schedule! jobs.utah.gov

#### Mountainland Region

#### DWS Mountainland Region Business Consultants

• Park City/Heber		
**	40= (40 0 4=4 ==04	
Thomas Anderson	435-649-8451 x31	
• Spanish Fork		
Kaye Stewart	801-794-6616	
Dave Anthony	801-794-6601	
•Provo/Orem		
Neal Anderson,	801-342-2669	
Kent Gygi	801-342-2622	
Joyce Johnson	801-342-2639	
Shane Jorgensen	801-342-2637	
Glen Quilter	801-342-2614	
Simone Waters	801-342-2693	
•American Fork		
DeAn Cardon	801-492-4510	
•Regional On-the-Job Training		

801-342-2685

801-526-9458

Joe Edman

Mark Knold

•Regional Economist - All Areas

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